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GENERAL DEPARTMENT

49

GP 22/219

1957

REFUGEES

FROM Mr Patchard.
BRITISH RED CROSS

No. —

Dated Mar. 14th

Received in
Registry— 19 MAR 1957

Encloses minutes of the Executive
Committee Meeting, No. 494. 13th Feb.
concerning particularly Hungarian
relief, and Relief for Baltic
nationals from Egypt.

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

23/3

(Print)

(How disposed of)

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completed)

(Index)

23/3

23/6/58

References to later relevant papers



BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1908.

GP 22/219.

14 Grosvenor Crescent,
London, S.W.1.

14th March 1957.

MEMORANDUM FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

I attach hereto Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting No. 494 held on Wednesday 13th February 1957, and would draw your attention to the following:-

Minute 6418 - Hungarian Relief

Minute 6419 - Relief for British Nationals from Egypt.

F.H.D. PRITCHARD
Secretary General.

To: Members of the Council.

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BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

14 Grosvenor Crescent,
London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXECUTIVE
NO. 494

MINUTES OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
13TH FEBRUARY 1957, AT 12 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, LONDON, S.W.1., AT 11 A.M.

PRESENT

Lord Woolton (Chairman)
Lady Limerick (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs. A.M. Bryans (Deputy Chairman)
F.H.D. Pritchard, Esq. (Secretary General)

Miss E.M. Bark
Mrs. M.M. Basham
Miss B.M.F. Batten
Miss B. Coke
Miss M.E. Craven
Viscount De L'Isle
Miss E.I. England
Sir Raymond H. Fooks
Sir Franklin Gimson
Major General L.A. Hawes
Air Commodore H.A. Hewat
Mrs. D.A. Macalpine
Dorothy, Countess of Malmesbury

Dame Beryl Oliver
Lt. Colonel A.W. Pilgrim
Mrs. Rees-Mogg
Miss L.G. Ross
Lt. Colonel A.C. Sheepshanks
(representing Miss Sissons)
Lady Templer
Miss J. Whittington
Lt. Colonel C.L. Wilson
Miss C.M. Wyatt
Miss M. Young-Jamieson
H.G. The Duchess of Marlborough
Lt. Colonel E.R. Newcomb

Captain J.C. Stewart
Miss M. Naylor Smith
I.D.M. Reid, Esq.)
Miss E.M. Bowring
Miss J. Knight

Scottish Branch
Assistant Secretaries
Appeals Officer
Home Department

6414 - Minutes of the 493rd Meeting, as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

6415 - Correspondence. The Chairman read a letter he had received from Sir Geoffrey Hutchinson, Chairman of the National Assistance Board, expressing appreciation of all the help given by the Society in connection with British subjects expelled from Egypt.

6416 - Appointment of Finance Sub-Committee, Medical Advisory and Nursing Advisory Boards for 1957.

The Secretary General reported that no further nominations had been received. The persons nominated by the respective Chairmen to the last meeting were accordingly elected 'en bloc'.

6417 - Visit of Vice-Chairman to Zanzibar, Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda. The Vice-Chairman reported on her visits to the Committee of the Red Cross in Zanzibar and to the Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda Branches.

Agreed a summary of Lady Limerick's report be sent to Branches.

The Chairman recommended that publicity be given to these visits, and was informed that the B.B.C., I.T.V., and the "Daily Telegraph" had already been approached.

6418 - Hungarian Relief

(a) The International Relations and Relief Adviser reported that the International Committee of the Red Cross included in its programme of relief work in Hungary the issue of food parcels to those in need, and had asked the Society to send parcels rather than food in bulk. Accordingly 10,000 parcels had been sent from this country. In addition H.M. Government had forwarded to the International Committee, through the B.R.C.S., a gift of 3,600 tons of tinned milk.

By the 1st March the League of Red Cross Societies would be responsible for the care of 50,000 of the 70,000 refugees in Austria. Distribution of supplies to the Camps had greatly improved.

There were now 15,000 refugees in Yugoslavia.

Excellent reports had been received of the work being done by the two British teams in Austria, and the Society had been asked to send out a third team this month.

(b) Aid to Hungary (from Great Britain) Ltd. Lord Woolton reported briefly the terms under which he had agreed to the Lord Mayor's request that the Society should sponsor this Organisation with a special grant of £10,000 given for the purpose by the Lord Mayor's Fund. The Organisation, under the patronage of Lord Tedder was aiding refugees immediately after they crossed the Austrian frontier, and Lord Tedder had given Lord Woolton an assurance they would not infringe Red Cross principles. Lord Tedder had asked for and been given an immediate grant of £5,000. Lord Woolton felt it was politic to accede to the Lord Mayor's request in this instance.

6419 - Relief for British Nationals from Egypt. The Deputy Chairman reported she was representing the Society on the Anglo Egyptian Resettlement Board who had asked the B.R.C.S. to continue with the work which it had been doing on behalf of the Home Office. She expressed her appreciation of the help given by Branches with the meeting of British Nationals from Egypt at ports and stations.

The Society is responsible for three of the hostels, and assistance was also being given at six others.

6420 - Home Sub-Committee:

Barnett Hill. The Deputy Chairman reported that Miss Bond was retiring as Commandant of Barnett Hill in the Autumn. The Committee expressed their regret.

The draft Rules for the Barnett Hill Club (copies of which had been circulated) were unanimously adopted.

Appeals Officers Conference. Miss Bowring reported. She suggested that the right method of procedure was

- a. to make contacts with Management and Trade Unions
- b. to secure their interest in and friendship for the Red Cross and its work;
- c. only then to ask for financial help.

The Chairman endorsed this. Colonel Pilgrim thought Branch appeals would be helped if the appeal was in somebody's name, e.g. the Chairman's, and

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Colonel Newcomb agreed. The Duchess of Marlborough was doubtful and thought Branches might fear the money would all go to National Headquarters: any central appeal should be linked with the quotas. The Vice Chairman believed it should be possible to combine the advantage of Branch appeals with approaches on a national basis: the time was ripe for a big effort now. Lady Templer referred to the fund raising success of the Warwickshire Branch and Miss England was asked to report to the Chairman. He referred to Detachment funds: real strength lay in getting a wide measure of support from the bottom and a national appeal might stop this. The Secretary General said National Headquarters had a fairly accurate idea now of Branch assets in the U.K. Miss Batten feared the Hungarian Relief Fund would affect Branches' ability to pay their quotas, but the Duchess of Marlborough thought the money was there if Branches organised to get it: she suggested enlisting the help of the Farmers for rural fund raising, and referred to lotteries.

Lady Malmesbury emphasized the importance

- (i) of a first class Branch Appeals Officer
- (ii) of educating the County to contribute to the Red Cross as a whole.

Hampshire was making progress in industrial collections and trying every opening by which to establish personal contacts with the Boards of Companies. Sir Franklin Gimson supported this: his Appeals Officer had established contact through a Detachment and the firm had stipulated a proportion of their contribution should go to the Detachment, thus combining both local and wider needs.

The Chairman summed up by saying he was giving much thought to the whole problem: if the right method was found he was sure the money could be raised, and asked for time to consider the matter.

6421 - Annual General Meetings. Approval was given to the proposal that in view of transport difficulties caused by petrol rationing, Branch Committees be given permission, if they thought it desirable, to dispense with the Annual General Meeting of the Branches or their Divisions due to be held in the forthcoming months of 1957. Where such difficulties did not arise, as in built up areas, or could be overcome, Annual General Meetings could be held as usual.

6422 - Branch Officers 1957. Various recommendations from Branch Committees for the appointment of Branch Officers, as set out on the Agenda, were approved, with the addition of the following Honorary Vice-Presidents:-

City of London Branch: Mrs. N.V. Morley-Fletcher
Miss M. MacKellor

The resignations set out on the Agenda were noted.

6423 - Committee of the Red Cross in Jersey. Approval was given to the re-appointment of the Officers and members of the Committee of the Red Cross in Jersey for the ensuing year.

6424 - Reports were received from several Regional Representatives on the work they were doing in connection with Hungarian refugees and British Nationals from Egypt.

Region 5 - The Lord Mayor was holding a Ball in aid of the City of London Branch funds, in appreciation of the work done by the Branch in connection

with his Hungarian Relief Fund.

Region 9 - Pithead Collections had been held in Warwickshire and Staffordshire. The Warwickshire Branch had held a Regional Training weekend at which 20 students passed the qualifying examination for B.R.C.S. Instructors. This Branch had also been asked to staff a 300-bedded hospital next summer for the International Scout Jamboree.

6425 - Departmental Reports were received from the Home, Overseas Branches, Service Hospitals Welfare and Publicity Departments. The main items were -

a) Great publicity had been given to the new First Aid in Industry Manual. The Norwegian Red Cross Society had invited the Society to send two representatives to attend the Mountain Rescue Service Training Camp to be held in February 1957. Dr. F.T. Madge, MD., Ch.B., MRCS., LRCP., DPH. (Medical Officer of Health for the Combined Districts of Westmorland and County Medical Officer of Westmorland Branch), and Dr. Robert Milne, MB., Ch.B. (Medical Officer of Perthshire Branch of the Scottish Branch) had accepted the invitation. Radio Amateur Network was beginning to take shape and arrangements had been made for linking up all East Coast Branches with R.A.E.N.

b) Overseas Branches - £28,000 had been received through Overseas Branches for the Hungarian Relief Fund.

c) The Director of the Service Hospitals Welfare Department had been in West Africa and the new Ghana Government were anxious that a Welfare Officer should continue to be posted there.

d) Publicity - The syndicated articles were proving a great success.

6426 - Letter of Commendation. Agreed a letter of commendation be sent to Mrs. Mabel M. Gibson of the Essex Branch for her devoted services.

6427 - (a) Honorary Life Membership of the Society was conferred on Dr. J.D. Sinclair of the Durham Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan (Minute 6411 refers). A letter had been received from the President of the Cornwall Branch asking that the decision of the Executive Committee taken under Minute 6411 should be reconsidered. The Committee considered the further details of the services rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Jordan contained in the President's letter and agreed that they be elected Honorary Life Members.

Agreed that the question of the qualifications necessary to merit the award of Honorary Life Membership be reviewed at a later date, together with Lady Toker's suggestion that a "Life Associate" award be instituted.

(b) Life Membership of the Society was conferred on the persons named on the Agenda, with the addition of the following:-

Mrs. E.P. Colquhoun

Dorset Branch

6428 - Date of next meeting - Wednesday 13th March 1957, at 11 a.m.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE